

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SCI-06 SCEM-02 SSO-00 COME-00

INT-08 TRSE-00 STR-08 CIEP-02 OMB-01 NEA-10 AID-20

PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 DODE-00 CG-00 /144 W

----- 015479

R 031602Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5812

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1547

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG PFOR TD XL

SUBJ: TRINIDAD TO MAINTAIN EXISTING LEVEL OF CARICOM OIL SUPPLIES

REF: POS 1515; POS 1538; STATE 234975 (NOTAL); STATE 234084

1. FOLLOWING SUBMISSION OF REPORT BY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO STUDY EFFECTS OF OIL CRISIS ON TRINIDAD AND ITS CARICOM PARTNERS (POS 1538), PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS MET WITH MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, PETROLEUM MINISTER AND OTHER SENIOR ADVISERS ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ISSUED STATEMENT THAT FOLLOWING DECISIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN: (A) THAT OIL COMPANIES BE INFORMED THAT SUPPLY OF PRODUCTS TO THE DOMESTIC MARKET (INCLUDING BUNKERS) MUST NOT BE CURTAILED IN ANY WAY WITHOUT PRIOR GOTT APPROVAL; (B) THAT OIL COMPANIES BE INFORMED THAT MAINTENANCE OF FUEL SUPPLIES TO CARIFTA-CARICOM MARKETS IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO TRINIDAD'S POLICY ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION, THAT SUPPLIES TO THESE NATIONS OF TRINIDAD PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MUST

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BE MAINTAINED AT LEVELS EXISTING PRIOR TO MIDDLE EAST

CRISIS, AND SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED WITHOUT PRIOR GOTT APPROVAL; (C) THAT THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM SHOULD MEET WITH OIL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES DECEMBER 3 TO DISCUSS THEIR FORECAST OF CARIFTA-CARICOM DEMAND AND THEIR CAPACITY TO MEET ANY SHORTFALL WHICH MAY ARISE IN THOSE MARKETS; AND (D) THAT THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM SHOULD CABLE CARIFTA-CARICOM GOVERNMENTS IMMEDIATELY TO REQUEST REPORT BY DECEMBER 4 OF DETAILS OF PETROLEUM SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES (FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN TRINIDAD).

2. COMMENT: GOTT'S DIRECTIVE CLASHES DIRECTLY WITH TEXACO'S REPORTED DECISION TO POOL AVAILABLE OIL AND REALLOCATE IT AMONG ALL CUSTOMERS. FURTHER, CARIFTA-CARICOM COUNTRIES ARE CERTAIN TO PRESS GOTT TO MEET SHORTFALL IN THEIR SUPPLIES FROM NON-TRINIDADIAN SOURCES, THUS PUTTING ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON GOTT-TEXACO RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO LOCAL TEXACO SPOKESMAN, THE COMPANY'S POSITION IS THAT IT WILL DO ITS BEST TO MEET PRESENT COMMITMENTS IN CARICOM AND ELSEWHERE, BUT THAT IT IS FOOLISH FOR NON-TEXACO CUSTOMERS TO MAINTAIN THAT THEY HAVE A "RIGHT" TO TRINIDADIAN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GOTT IS CONSIDERING A DIRECT REQUEST TO TEXACO TO DIVERT EXPORTS DESTINED TO THE U.S. TO MEET NEEDS OF CARIFTA-CARICOM NATIONS.
MARSHALL

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